



Town of Hopkinton

Town Moderator

330 Main Street, Hopkinton NH 03229-2627 - (603) 746-3170 – www.hopkinton-nh.gov

July 9, 2020

2020 Hopkinton Town Meeting

To: The Registered Voters of the Town of Hopkinton

From: Bruce B. Ellsworth, Moderator

Subject: Administrative Procedures for the 2020 Hopkinton Town Meeting

Voting for the Warrant Articles for the 2020 Hopkinton Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 25, 2020 in the parking lot of the Hopkinton Middle/High School, 297 Park Ave, Contoocook, NH 03229. Prior to the voting date, informational meetings will be held on Monday, July 20 and Friday, July 24 using the Zoom format, and questions and amendments requests may be submitted to the Moderator from Tuesday, July 21 through Thursday, July 23.

Decision for this schedule was made following the exploration of a number of other alternatives - expanding the use of the school building, utilizing the school soccer field under tents, utilizing the parking areas of the Hopkinton State Fair grounds, joining with the school district in having a one-day sequential meeting, and foregoing a meeting altogether and relying on a continuation of last year's budget. Although some would have met my own preference of assuring that all participants would share in the open discussions that only an in-person meeting can provide, none, in my opinion, provided a format that assured the health and safety of our voters. That, after all, is our first responsibility to each other.

Accordingly, on Monday night, July 20th, at 6:00 p.m. I will open a Zoom meeting utilizing the same format that you would expect at an in-person town meeting. I will introduce each warrant article and a member of the Select Board will speak to the article. Public comments and questions (but not amendments) may follow each article. Articles will be announced in the same manner and sequence as you would expect at an in-person meeting.

Voters are invited to submit comments, questions, and amendments on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday using the contact information listed below. No seconds will be required for amendments.

A second Zoom meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Friday evening, July 24th. I will report on amendments and will allow Board members to respond to questions that had been previously submitted. I will also accept further comments and questions from the public, but further amendments will not be accepted.

Ballots will be available online, at the Town Hall, and Slusser Center on Friday, July 24th at 3:00 p.m. and will be available at the polling place on Saturday, July 25th.

Voting will commence at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning and end at 2:00 p.m. When approaching the parking lot, cars will be divided into lines by last name.

A more detailed set of procedures is included in this letter.

To submit comments to the Moderator:

Email: moderator@hopkinton-nh.gov

Telephone: (603) 746-8256

I want to extend my thanks to those of you who have contacted me as this process has developed, and thank the Select Board, administrative staff, and the many volunteers for their adaptation to circumstances that have been stressful, saddening, and without precedence. I look forward to seeing you at our scheduled meetings.

Bruce B. Ellsworth, Moderator